



HEAVEN ON EARTH

May 2013

*The Lord is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.
My heart leaps for joy
and I will give thanks to him in song.*

Psalm 28:7

Have you ever been so overjoyed that you felt your insides dancing? I have. Sometimes I'm so overwhelmed with joy and gratitude that all I can say, over and over, is "Thank you, Lord. Thank you." Just like David describes it above: "My heart leaps for joy." I'm happy we have the Psalms, because they so clearly describe many of the feelings that well up in me, whether it be joy or sadness. Thank God there was a David!

Very often I've felt like heaven has arrived on earth, not everywhere of course, but within my heart. The way I see it, I'm experiencing the Kingdom of Heaven, the effects of God's rule in the world.

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I experience a taste of heaven whenever I study a branch of weigela blossoms up close, admiring it and thanking God for it.

I experience heaven when the sun comes out after dreary days of rain. "Thank you, God," I say, and the joyful feeling overtakes me.

Heaven on earth.

Charles Spurgeon expressed the phenomenon well: ". . .when Jesus manifests himself to his people, it is heaven on earth; it is paradise in embryo; it is bliss begun."

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